Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.   (Original) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article information, comprising:

a usage data collection step in which, when an article has been used, usage data showing the facts relating to the usage of that said article are collected;

a usage history storage step in which the collected usage data are stored as usage history in a data base; and

a usage history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, the usage history of said article stored in said data base, is provided to a customer via a network.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data collection step ~~or current state data collection step~~ includes a step for collecting usage data ~~or current state data~~ for said article by communicating with said article from a remote location away from said article.

3.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a service data collection step in which, when said article has been serviced, service data that shows the facts relating to the service of said article are collected;

a service history storage step in which the collected service data are stored as service history in said data base; and

a service history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a

secondhand article, the service history for said article stored in said data base, is provided to a

customer via a network.

4.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data collection step, said

usage history storage step, and said usage history provision step are conducted simultaneously in

parallel so that an article still in use can be put up for sale as a secondhand article.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data includes operation

data that shows an amount of work done by said article.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data includes

photographic data showing actual images of said article.

7.   (Original) The method according to any one of claims 1 and 3, further comprising a

download step of downloading the usage history or service history for said article, which are

stored in said data base, to a terminal used by said customer via a network.

8.   (Original) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article

information, comprising:

a current state data collecting step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a

secondhand article, current state data that shows the current state of an article are collected at

intervals;

a current state data storage step in which the collected current state data are stored in said

data base; and

a current state data provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a

secondhand article, the current state data for said article stored in said data base, are provided to

a customer via a network.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said ~~usage data~~

~~collection step or~~ current state data collection step includes a step for collecting ~~usage data or~~

current state data for said article by communicating with said article from a remote location away

from said article.

10.   (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

a service data collection step in which, when said article has been serviced, service data

that shows the facts relating to the service of said article are collected;

a service history storage step in which the collected service data are stored as service

history in said data base; and

a service history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a

secondhand article, the service history for said article stored in said data base, is provided to a

customer via a network.

11.   (Original) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article

information comprising:

a usage data collection step in which, when an article has been used, usage data showing

the facts relating to the usage of that said article are collected;

a usage history storage step in which the collected usage data are stored as usage history in a data base;

a current state data collecting step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, current state data that shows the current state of said article are collected at intervals;

a current state data storage step in which the collected current state data are stored in said data base;

a current state data provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, the current state data for said article stored in said data base, is provided to a customer via a network; and

a usage history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, the usage history of said article stored in said data base, is provided to a customer via a network.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said usage data collection step or current state data collection step includes a step for collecting usage data or current state data for said article by communicating with said article from a remote location away from said article.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

a service data collection step in which, when said article has been serviced, service data that shows the facts relating to the service of said article are collected;

a service history storage step in which the collected service data are stored as service

history in said data base; and

a service history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a

secondhand article, the service history for said article stored in said data base, is provided to a

customer via a network.

14.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said usage data collection step,

said usage history storage step, and said usage history provision step are conducted

simultaneously in parallel so that an article still in use can be put up for sale as a secondhand

article.

15.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising a step of updating said

current state data within said data base based on collected said usage data.

16.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said usage data includes operation

data that shows an amount of work done by said article.

17.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said usage data includes

photographic data showing actual images of said article.

18.   (Original) The method according to any one of claims 11 and 13, further comprising a

download step of downloading the usage history or service history for said article, which are

stored in said data base, to a terminal used by said customer via a network.

19.   (Original) A computer system for providing information about secondhand articles, comprising:

usage data collection means that, when said article has been used, collects usage data that shows the facts relating the usage of the article;

a data base;

usage history storage means that stores the collected usage data as usage history on said data base; and

usage history provision means that, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, provides the usage history for said article stored in said data base, to a customer via a network.

20.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 19, further comprising:

service data collection means that, when said article has been serviced, collects service data that shows the facts relating to the service of the article;

service history storage means that stores the collected service data as service history on said data base; and

service history provision means that, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, provides the service history for said article stored in said data base, to a customer via a network.